

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS GENERAL ORDERS

GENERAL ORDERS #7  
2021-2022

February 2022

## 2022 State Convention

This year state convention will be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas at the Arlington Hotel, June 2 – 5. Room rates are \$105.00 + tax and \$10.00 resort fee. We have not yet finalized the hospitality suites and food. For reservations please call 501-623-7771.

Congratulations to ALL these winners

### Voice of Democracy

1<sup>st</sup> Place – District 1 – Post 2952 – Springdale Post – Zachary T. Gardner  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – District 9 – Post 4451 – Mena Post – Jayden N. Willborg  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – District 7 – Post 1322 – Van Buren Post – Kennedy D. Holland  
4<sup>th</sup> Place – District 10 – Post 8124 – Taylor Post – Carley S. Tompkins

### 5<sup>th</sup> Place

District 2 – Post 8042 – Evening Shade – Aubrey May  
District 4 – Post 1991 – Jonesboro – Emma B. Prondzinski  
District 5 – Post 7514 – Quitman – Aaron Passmore  
District 6 – Post 2259 – Conway Post – Danae P. Jones  
District 13 – Post 11474 – Levy Post – Hannah C. Humphries

### Patriots Pen

1<sup>st</sup> Place – District 6 – Post 2283 – Russellville Post – Ezekiel Leonard  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – District 1 – Post 2952 – Springdale Post – Reese O. Harriman  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – District 5 – Post 7514 – Quitman Post – Caden M. Harneck

### 4<sup>th</sup> Place

District 2 – Post 10417 – Lead Hill – Tyler Franco  
District 4 – Post 5225 – West Memphis – Amaryn E. Burdette  
District 7 – Post 7527 – Greenwood – Weston Arnett  
District 9 – Post 2256 Benton – Liberty L. Brown  
District 10 – Post 8124 – Taylor Post – Anagail Wilson  
District 13 – Post 4548 – Jacksonville Post – Kailyn Carroll

Current Membership: Department – 82.72%

### Post of the Quarter

Post of the Quarter ending December 2021 is New Blain Post 8383 out of District 7. Congratulations!!

### Top 10 Post in Department

Post 8383 – New Blaine – Commander Hurst – 135.71%  
Post 4679 – Harrisburg – Commander Palmer – 129.41%  
Post 8525 – Plainview – Commander Morris – 119.64%  
Post 2952 – Springdale – Commander Tharrington – 110.57%  
Post 9834 – Decatur – Commander Carnahan – 105.66%  
Post 3141 – Dardanelle – Commander Carter – 94.52%  
Post 10480 – Rector – Commander Bradshaw – 93.75%  
Post 2278 – Hot Springs – Commander Daniell – 93.26%  
Post 2586 – Malvern – Commander Lafond – 91.35%  
Post 10483 – Hot Springs – Commander Midkiff – 91.35%

Department of Arkansas is currently at 9,547 members to achieve 100% we need to be at 11,541, meaning we need 1,994 new, continuous and/or reinstated. We can do this together Arkansas currently 5 Post have achieved 100% or better. We need to achieve more than ever before. Which Post will be next to join the above list? Commander Davis and his staff are here to help. Let us work together and achieve 50% of our Post achieving 100% or better. We are counting on you.

## Scout of the Year and Nick Bacon

The following are the deadlines for these programs, they need not go to your District send them to Department or the Chairman.

- 1 March 2022 – deadline for Scout of the Year to be to headquarters
- 2 March, 2022 – deadline for Nick Bacon Scholarship to be at headquarters.

\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*This year the Nick Bacon was increased to \$3,500, and a second place, if we have 10 or more entries there will be a second place awarded of \$1,500.

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S NOTES

We are grateful to each member of the Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars. Even when members are not currently in a place in their life to be actively participating, each membership matters. Our full-time legislative team in Washington D.C. testifies before Congress multiple times a year and works to support legislation that benefits Veterans and their families and works to oppose the reduction of benefits. It's important that we have substantial numbers of members when we meet with Representatives or Senators and we're asked, "how many veterans do you represent"? The funding for our State Veterans claims office is also funded primarily on our membership numbers.

How members can help:

1. Pay your annual dues each year and renew as soon as possible.
2. Upgrade to Life Member. If an annual member expects to be a member for 8-10 years, then a life membership is a good financial decision. You can also do this as an installment plan and pay monthly for your Life Membership.
3. Life members upgrade to Legacy life. Legacy life members contribute \$400 for each level Bronze, Silver, or Gold for a total of \$1,200 to achieve legacy status. The Department and Post receive an annual payout that continues even after the member has passed.

This is just a little to think about for the future of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S NOTES

I want to take a moment to say thank you to every Auxiliary and VFW member who had a hand in making our Mid-Winter Conference special for the students and their families. It was truly a first-class event that I look forward to attending each year. Congratulations to the state winners and best of luck as they compete at the national level. I have no doubt both will make Arkansas proud!

With that being said, the majority of our programs for this year are completed. Now is the time where our focus turns to membership. Retaining and growing our membership numbers gives the elected officials in Washington D.C. no choice but to listen to our voice. If the "A Team" can assist in any way to help with your membership goals, we are only a phone call or email away.

THANK YOU to each and every member for everything you do! As always, I will continue to make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~SVC Jeffrey Byrd ~

## Junior Vice Commanders Notes

I have the honor as JR Vice Commander to be Department of Arkansas chairman for the VFW National Home for Children. I will be traveling to Michigan in May to tour the grounds and meet some of the family's and learn more about the programs the National Home offers. It is my duty to raise funds to assist the needs of the family's and staff at the National Home. The members and posts, to date have donated threwh the Department over \$2600.00 dollars. It is my goal to raise \$3000.00 dollars to take to the National Home in May. If any member or Post would like to donate you can send a check to the National Home or go to their website and donate or you can write a check to the Department of Arkansas and in the memo attention National Home and we will add that to the total raised and I will hand carry a check in May when I have my visit. For more information about the National Home here is the link. <https://vfwnationalhome.org/>

~JR Vice Pipkin

## Adjutant/Quartermaster

So often as Post members we confuse the responsibilities of post leadership and membership with that of the Department. If you have questions, concerns, or problems in your post canteen you should take these issues to your House Committee and then to general membership, that is the final authority.

Now Post issues, if you have concerns within your post, please take it to membership, you can communicate with any Department Officer for advise however, the responsibility for action falls on the responsibility of the post membership in almost all cases. In very few cases will the Department leadership team take action. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to give us a call.

~ADJ/QM Oldham

## Surgeon

February in Arkansas brings cold weather, snow, and ice. We have all experienced the occasional slip due to a spot of water freezing overnight. I know we all hate hearing that the older we get the longer it takes to recover from injuries, but it is the hard cold truth. Please be careful when doing any work outside or just walking around. We also have a resurgence of Covid running rampant in our state. If you have any of the symptoms, please follow the CDC guidelines. Go to [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov) to find the symptoms plus guidelines if you have them.

~ Surgeon Wood

## MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

Members have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs. Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and Life membership are still options as well.

VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically!  Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no need to complete a payment authorization form.

Department and Post Quartermasters have the option to enroll new members as installment Life on the Online Membership System.

Recruiting Notes: Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

Levels	Post	Departments	National
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$ 6.00

## VFW FOUNDATION:

### VFW's Partners in Patriotism

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

**“Buddy” Poppy**  
**“BUDDY” ® POPPY:**

Order Buddy Poppies NOW for Memorial Day events. Email the headquarters or fill out the form you can obtain online and mail it to headquarters.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.”

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy” ® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. The bigger issue is that we simply don’t have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of “Buddy” ® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

**DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS.** Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>

**Post registering for National Convention**

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 119th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

**Post Elections:** Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post-Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1.

**District**

Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to District conventions at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected: one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department convention.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed.

District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

### **Post**

Delegates and alternates to the Department conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

All Post must have at least two members present at the election of the Department Convention in-order to maintain all votes. (meaning: delegate votes plus Commander vote, one person cannot vote delegate strength and Commander vote.)

Department By-Laws and Resolutions: By-Laws and Resolutions for the Department By-Laws **MUST** be submitted to the State Adjutant NLT 15 April 2021 and shall be typewritten in order for the By-Laws Committee to review and publish them in the May and June GO's for all to review prior to the State Convention. You can hard copy or email them to the Department Adjutant [adjqm@vfw.org](mailto:adjqm@vfw.org).

**BY COMMAND OF**

**Mark Davis  
State Commander**

**OFFICIAL**

**Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant**